

Boulevard Planning Group  
**Approved - MINUTES/SUMMARY, April 2, 2009**  
Boulevard Community Center, 39919 Highway 94/Ribbonwood

**The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM. Members present: Cheryl Lenz, Jeffrey McKernan, Chris Noland, Bill Parsons, Pat Stuart, and Donna Tisdale (Chair). Absent: Darlene Koczka.**

**MINUTES: M/S Noland/Parsons to accept the March 5, 2009 - REVISED minutes (the Secretary advised the Group that she had added the tape-recorded comments from that meeting regarding the proposed new fire station preferred location of Chief Francois). Passed: 6-0-0.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**#1:** Chair Tisdale has received the **aVegetation Management Report@** from the County. It was received after our last meeting and went before the Board of Supervisors on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The report has Boulevard in Priority Area #3: Southeastern County. The report states that the southeastern part of the County from Jacumba to Potrero along Highway 94 and south of Interstate 8 and the area north of Interstate 8 in the area of the Tecate Divide contain old and severely drought stressed Chaparral. While the County and Southern California as a whole have suffered a long period of drought, this portion of San Diego County has been particularly hard hit. The Chaparral vegetation has a significant level of standing dead material. This portion of the County has also exhibited greater numbers of residences. Fires carried by an east wind event would be very destructive to the communities of Tierra del Sol, Bankhead Springs, Boulevard, Campo, Morena Village, Potrero and Buckman Springs. This area would be served through strategic fuels treatment to break up the large swath of old age class vegetation with possible augmentation through the use of goats and masticators.

**#2:** Tisdale also distributed a June 13, 2008 comment letter from CAL FIRE regarding the Sunrise Powerlink Draft EIR. CAL FIRE noted that transmission lines make it difficult to fight fires and actually can create a larger fire because it is common practice to back firefighters well away from transmission lines where active fire is occurring. These defensive tactics often allow a fire to increase in size and are potentially difficult to control.

**1. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A) WRITE LETTER TO FOREST SERVICE ON SUNRISE POWERLINK ROUTE:**

Chair Tisdale shared that the Forest Service is required to do a Plan Amendment and a decision will be made by the Supervisor in May, June, or July. Tisdale suggested that the Group should send a letter requesting that the Forest Service do a full Environmental Impact Study(EIS) of their own - not to rely on the inadequate one that was done for this project. The letter would request that they do a separate supplemental EIS to amend their plan and that they hold public hearings locally at Mountain Empire High School and Alpine.

**M/S: Lenz/Stuart to send a letter to the Forest Service requesting a supplemental EIS before any Plan Amendments are made, and public hearings be held locally at Mt. Empire High School, Lakeside and Alpine. Passed: 6-0-0.**

**B) REQUEST TO SUPPORT JACUMBA WITH EYE GNAT ISSUE:** Jacumba resident Bill Pape, President of Jacumba Against Gnats (JAG) requested a letter of support regarding the eye gnat situation.. JAG=s Mission Statement says ATo eradicate eye gnats in the Jacumba community and to do research, and implement any and all possibilities to exterminate eye gnats, and to return the community to a pre-infestation condition@. Eye gnats do not bite. They swarm around the head with an annoying persistence, darting at the eyes, mouth, nose, or wounds of humans or other animals eating the mucous. This aids in the transmission of acute bacterial conjunctivitis or Apinkeye@ and yaws in humans, and anaplasmosi organisms to cattle. There is no natural pest to eliminate the problem. The gnat problem started around the year 2000 when the Bornt organic agriculture farm in Jacumba started up. With the expansion of the farm, the gnat problem continued to grow. In 2007 the Department of Agriculture responded to complaints from Jacumba residents by conducting a \$50,000 Study to determine the source of the gnats. Emergence traps were placed in strategic areas of the town as well as on the Bornt fields. The Study found that all of the traps on the Bornt fields produced eye gnats in large numbers. No eye gnats were found in the traps placed in town. Doing the math for one Bornt farm eye gnat trap , 2 ft x 2 ft in size, from day 2 after planting to day 8 after planting, and using the Study=s figures over the 400 acres, there would be over 59 million eye gnats in just 6 days. Children from Boulevard attend elementary school in Jacumba.. A change in the type of crop grown on this farm would in all likelihood remove the problem. JAG=s next meeting is May 13, 7 pm, Jacumba Library. JAG can be contacted at P. O. Box 516, Jacumba, CA 91934.

**M/S: Stuart/Lenz that we write a letter to the County in support of JAG=s efforts to return the eye gnat population to pre-infestation levels and request the County to recognize eye gnats as a vector problem. Passed: 6-0-0.**

## **2. OLD BUSINESS - UPDATES - POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS:**

**A) GENERAL PLAN UPDATE:** County staff is requesting the Planning Group to respond to edits that they propose to our submitted draft Community Plan and to sit down with us to go over any questions we may have, as well as some items that have been flagged for further discussion. They would like to present a finished product to the Board of Supervisors in June. Chair Tisdale was concerned that it appears that implementation of the General Plan should be monitored on a periodic basis by the County and the Community Planning Group for progress towards implementation. For compliance with State law, the Plan

**Page 3 of 4 Minutes for the April 2, 2009 meeting of the Boulevard Planning Group**

should be reviewed no less than once annually so that its implementation status may be included in the County=s annual General Plan report to the State. The annual review provides an opportunity for the Plan to be updated and amended as appropriate to reflect changes in the community vision, conditions or attitude.

**M/S: McKernan/Lenz approving the Chair and two other Planning Group members to discuss our Community Plan approved changes (attached) with County staff. Passed: 6-0-0.**

**B) SDG&E=S PLANS TO SHUT-OFF POWER TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IN**

**HIGH WIND EVENTS:** Public hearings will be held in Alpine on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center for proposed changes to Rule 14. SDG&E estimates power could be shut off for periods of 12-72 hours to reduce the potential for their lines to spark wildfires during significant wind events with low humidity.

**M/S: Stuart/Parsons that the Chair represent the BPG at the hearing on April 7<sup>th</sup> opposing the shut off and present our objections to this proposal. Passed: 6-0-0.**

**C) SUNRISE POWERLINK/BLM AND OTHER ISSUES:** Chair Tisdale announced that there is a town hall meeting on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Alpine Community Center for Sunrise Powerlink opponents, organized by the East County Community Action Coalition (ECCAC). Back Country Against Dumps (BAD), ECCAC, and Protect our Communities Foundation (PCF) have joined forces and have retained an attorney. An appeal and request for stay has been filed on the BLM=s approval of the Sunrise Powerlink project. The BLM violated the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act. At the Chair=s request, a brief statement (with photos) was provided by the Border Patrol Public Lands Liaison Officer documenting areas that Big Horn Sheep have been seen.

**D) IBERDROLA RENEWABLES \$400 MILLION TULE WIND PROJECT PROPOSED FOR MCCAIN VALLEY:** They have not officially filed their project yet.

**E) SDG&E=S ECO SUBSTATION AND NEW TRANSMISSION LINE REQUIRED FOR WIND GENERATION PROJECTS:** Mary Schoefper has reportedly sold her property to SDG&E - which was the area required for the proposed expansion of the Boulevard substation.

**F) SEMPRA=S PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR 500 KV CROSS-BORDER LINE AT JACUMBA:** Comments have been submitted from the Boulevard Planning Group as well as from Back Country Against Dumps for the EIS scoping deadline of March 27<sup>th</sup>.

- G)    PROPOSED CAMPO LANDFILL:** The Supplemental EIS is still pending release for public comment.

**M/S: McKernan/Lenz to send a letter asking elected representatives to formally request the involvement of the United States Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers, and/or the International Boundary and Water Commission, and others to review and submit comments during the upcoming public review period. Passed: 6-0-0.**

- H)    LANSING AND HAMANN COMPANIES:** Planner Noland shared that Code Enforcement contacted him and reported that the sodar wind testing equipment has been removed. Noland stated he was not the reporting party.

- I)    INVENERGY WIND:** It has been reported that this company is experiencing some noise problems in Washington State with existing turbines.

- J)    MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN:** The March 26<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting was cancelled.

- 3.    PRESENTATION FROM THE FLOOR ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** The status of Sexually Violent Predator Norman is that he has now been returned to Coalinga State Hospital and will not be returning to Boulevard.

- 4.    ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.. Minutes submitted by Cheryl Lenz, Secretary. Contact info: Donna Tisdale, Chair, 619-766-4170, [donnatisdale@hughes.net](mailto:donnatisdale@hughes.net), PO Box 1272 Boulevard CA 91905